

PERMISSION FOR MEMBERS TO REVISE AND EXTEND THEIR REMARKS IN THE RECORD UNTIL SEPTEMBER 6, 1995, NOTWITHSTANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the adjournment of the House until Wednesday, September 6, 1995, all Members of the House shall have the privilege to extend and revise their own remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on more than one subject, if they so desire, and may also include therein such short quotations as may be necessary to explain or complete such extensions of remarks; but this order shall not apply to any subject matter which may have occurred or to any speech delivered subsequent to the said adjournment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

FRAUDULENT CORRESPONDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the telecommunications bill, but I also want to say that communication from my constituents is very important to me because that is one of many ways that one deals with issues and shapes views.

But unfortunately, during this debate, that very communications has been compromised for the first time in the time that I have had the privilege of serving in the House. I hold up, Mr. Speaker, generated communications, letters with names and addresses of constituents ranging from Martinsburg to Harpers Ferry, to Weston, to Charleston, to Ravenswood, to Ripley, all across the State of West Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I hold up 550 letters. This was the amount of mail coming in in the last few days on the telecommunications bill, all expressing one point of view.

We decided to do a survey to find out whether people and genuinely been behind these letters. What I found, Mr. Speaker, was that in contacting 15 people, we found 8 people of the 15 who were unaware that their names were on one of these letters. We found out, Mr. Speaker, that of the 15, 3 were deceased and he had been dead for 6 to 7 years.

We found out that 4 people were aware. What that means, Mr. Speaker, is about two-thirds of the people listed here may not have actually communicated with my office, but their names were used to represent it.

This is an outrage, Mr. Speaker. I encourage my constituents, as all my colleagues do, Mr. Speaker, to write, to express their opinions. For the first time, the credibility of their written opinions has been put at risk. I hope that something will be done about this.

I encourage constituents to write directly or to call; that way, we know what their opinions are.

Mr. Speakers, I am voting against this telecommunications bill, mainly because of the cable provisions. I fought too hard in this Congress for several years to try and get some regulation of cable rates, and yet, with the passage of this legislation, rural cable rates can be deregulated immediately. What that means is that in West Virginia, 40 percent of the cable could become deregulated upon enactment. That is very significant.

Mr. Speaker, despite what some may say, before regulation in 1992, before we were able to get some control over rates, cable rates had gone up 61 percent, or 3 times the rate of inflation. Following regulation and the ability to monitor some of the rates, the rates went down, in some cases as much as 17 percent, and consumers were saved \$3 billion. That is all now put at risk by the passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I did not come here to vote for an immediate rate increase for cable users. I think that that is something that has to be dealt with to clean this bill up, so that by Christmas, our cable users are not seeing a \$5 to \$7 increase.

I want competition in the cable industry like everyone else, but unfortunately, the cable rates can be raised before there is effective competition, and that does not benefit anyone.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that in this legislation, the V-chip passed. I am holding up a V-chip, Mr. Speaker, very thin, very inexpensive, but what it does is give parents control over the TV sets that their children are watching. All of us, as parents, want to know that we have some input into what our children learn and what they see and what they watch on television.

This V-chip is not censorship. It is parental control, and all it does is say that parents may, with this V-chip in the TV set, will now be able to program out that which is rated as violent. Some say that is censorship; perhaps those in Hollywood think it is censorship.

Mr. Speaker, nothing stops what comes across the television screen, but what can stop the material from being seen by a child whose parent does not want it seen is this V-chip. So we are going to fight hard to make sure this V-chip stays inside the television set.

With this V-chip, Mr. Speaker, you can take a very, very big bite out of the violence that your children see.

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So I think it is important that this stay in this telecommunications legislation. My hope is that eventually there will be a bill that we can support, but this bill today, particularly what it does to rural cable users, is not the bill to be supporting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Fox of Pennsylvania). Under a previous

order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SEASTRAND address the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR address the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. CONYERS address the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

A TRIBUTE TO LORRAINE MILLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young woman whom I deeply admire, Lorraine C. Miller, who is a Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs. Lorraine is leaving that position to become Director of Congressional Relations at the Federal Trade Commission after 14 years of distinguished service here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, Lorraine is a proud native of northwestern Texas who, prior to joining the White House staff, served this body in the office of Speaker Tom Foley, in the office of Speaker Jim Wright, and as floor assistant for the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS]. During her tenure here with the Office of Legislative Affairs, Lorraine has served the President and her country very well. Working extremely long hours and under stressful time-crunch conditions, Lorraine served us, and she calls us her constituents, in ways many may not be aware of. She has fought tirelessly on issues we care about and made sure our concerns were her priority. Her willingness to go beyond the duty to both inform and assist is well-known to Member of this body.

Lorraine's legislative expertise covered a broad spectrum in urban issues to rural concerns, from the environment to NAFTA and GATT, from regulatory reform to space programs and so on. Her pleasant demeanor and her political savvy in helping to move important legislative issues through the House has become legendary.

Lorraine is going to be missed as she embarks upon her new career, and so to her I would say, "Lorraine, you have been an invaluable asset to the Democratic Members of Congress, and we are pleased that we have had a person of your esteem, and your grace, and character to work along with us." I am sure